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Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	AARP	2
2.	Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre	5
3.	Women's World Summit Foundation	7

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. AARP
General Consultative Status Granted 1995

In accordance with ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, AARP (formerly known as the American Association for Retired Persons) a non-governmental organization (NGO) in general consultative status, submits the following report to the Council Committee on NGOs, highlighting AARP's activities as they relate to the work of the UN.

I. Introductory Statement

Since its inception in 1958, AARP has reached out internationally, serving as a premier source of information and as an advocate on issues affecting ageing populations. AARP facilitates international understanding and dialogue around the global ageing agenda. Working with governments, opinion leaders and NGOs, AARP participates in international, social and economic policy debates to formulate global responses addressing the challenges associated with global aging. In the U.S. and abroad, AARP leads positive social change and enhances the quality of life for people over 50 through social policy, communications, advocacy, community service, and group buying arrangements. AARP is explicitly dedicated to bettering the situation for older persons so they can live a longer, healthier, financially secure and more productive life. Currently AARP has over 35 million members, approximately 26,000 of which reside outside the U.S. (See attached for country listings). AARP is affiliated with the International Federation on Ageing, the International Social Security Association, and Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations, all of which hold consultative status with the UN.

II. Participation in ECOSOC and Subsidiary Bodies and Conferences and other UN Meetings through attendance, delivering oral and/or written statements:

** YEAR 1999 **

- As Chair of the NGO Committee on Aging, in preparation for the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP), launched an international network "Creative Connections" to connect international NGOs outside of the aging field to plan implementation of the IYOP.
- Developed "Strategies for a Society for All Ages," based on broad consultation with NGOs around the world. Published and translated final version in English, French and Spanish and distributed to national and international organizations to stimulate dialogue on IYOP and to promote action around the strategies.
- Served as CONGO Secretary (3 years), to assist facilitating UN NGO participation through ECOSOC1996/31.
- Introduced the unique situation of older women's rights into the CEDAW report reviews as Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Older Women of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.
- Co-sponsored an International Symposium with the Nederlands Platform un Ouderen Europeans in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). A three day expert

consultation was held exploring the impact of globalization of the media on the images of older women.

- Contributed to the Pan-American Health Organization Walk for Health on April 7, "International Health Day."
- Co-convened a global network on aging through two questionnaires and two "Ageing Assembly Meetings" for the UN Millennium Assembly, 54th session (Agenda item 49b). Coordinated participation of aging representatives at the UN Millennium Forum.
- Supported the UN Programme on Ageing with a gift to the Trust Fund on Ageing of $10,000 in support of a program focused on older persons in Uganda.
- With UNESCO, sponsored a Colloquium on Lifelong Learning entitled "Learning After 50" from Sept. 7-9, 1999. The Colloquium closing was held at the UN with speeches by the UN Secretary General and the head of UNESCO's NY Office, and other leading educators. This was in partial fulfillment of the MOU with UNESCO.
- Six "UPDATES" and other publications of "COALITION 99" were realized in 1999. AARP was given an award by the UN at the end of IYOP for the contributions which "COALITION 99" made to information exchange on activities of the year. The database as maintained by AARP grew from 189 to 3300 since 1995.
- Co-sponsored and financially supported the breakfast celebration of IYOP in conjunction with UN Information Office based in Washington DC. The breakfast was held at the Washington Press Club in November.
- AARP attended the ESCAP meeting in Macao to develop strategies on ageing for the ESCAP Region.
- AARP was invited to speak at the General Assembly closing ceremony for IYOP.

**** YEAR 2000 ****

Commission for Social Development, 38th session, New York 8-17 February
Commission on the Status of Women, 44th session, New York 28 February-2 March: *Statement on Agenda item 3(b) Emerging Issues, Trends and new Approaches to issues Affecting the Situation of Women*
Commission on the Status of Women, preparatory committee (PrepCom) for the special session of the GA: "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st century", New York 3-17 March
Commission on Sustainable Development, 8th, New York, 24 April-5 May
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 23rd session New York 12-30 June
GA special session "Women 2000: gender equality, development & peace for the 21st century", NY 5-9 June
Economic and Social Council substantive session, New York 5 July-1 August
General Assembly, 55th session, New York, September
United Nations Millennium Forum 22-26 May 2000: *Facilitated global aging NGO caucus participation in the Millennium Forum through listserv information dissemination and Forum preparatory meetings with NGOs.;* United Nations Millennium Summit New York 6-8 September 2000

**** YEAR 2001****

Commission for Social Development New York 13-23 February: *Statement on Older Persons and Volunteerism*
Commission for Social Development acting as PrepCom for the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing, New York 25 February-1 March: *Statement to the First Session of the PrepCom for the Second World Assembly on Ageing*
Commission on the Status of Women, 45th session New York 6-16 March: *Statement on Agenda Item 4(a): Older Women and HIV/AIDS*
Commission for Social Development PrepCom for the 2WAA, resumed 1st session New York, 30 April-1 May
Commission on Sustainable Development, 9th session New York, 16-27 April: *Input on Agenda Item: Transportation*
Commission on the Status of Women, resumed 45th session, New York 9-11 May
CEDAW, 25th session New York, 2-20 July
General Assembly, 56th session New York, 11 September– December
Commission for Social Development acting as the PrepCom for the 2WAA New York, 10-14 December

**** YEAR 2002 ****

CEDAW, 26th session, New York 14 January-1 February
Commission for Social Development, 40th session, New York 11-21 February
Commission on the Status of Women, 46th session, New York 4-15 March
NGO World Forum on Ageing, Madrid, Spain, 5-9 April: *Organized workshops on: Elder Abuse, Older Women, Media and Advocacy*
UN 2nd World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, Spain 8-12 April: *Statement to the World Assembly, 11 April; Organized side event on Age Discrimination*
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, New York 13-24 May
Economic and Social Council, substantive session, New York 1-26 July
Economic Commission for Europe Ministerial Conference on Ageing, Berlin, Germany 11-13 September
General Assembly, 57th session, New York 10 September–December

III. Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies.

In recognition of the UN International Year of Volunteers (IYV2001), AARP launched a postcard campaign co-sponsored by UNV and the UN Programme on Ageing in order to raise awareness of the global contributions of older persons as volunteers. Additional support of the IYV included a panel discussion on older persons as volunteers scheduled for 11 September, 2001 but was cancelled due to the tragic events of that day.

IV. Other Activities including (i) Action on UN resolutions (ii) Cooperation w/ UN Secretariat; (iii) Preparation of papers; (iv) Substantive activities, financial assistance received from or given to the UN, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc.

AARP has staffed several persons and funded four volunteers in a New York office since 1993 dedicated to working with the UN and other NGO's on the issues of aging. These representatives, supplemented by staff from Headquarters, represent AARP at Commissions, International Conferences, meetings of the Specialized Agencies, and other meetings as required. The AARP's International website serves as a hub and clearinghouse for information related to global aging issues including information on UN work related to older persons.
On 14 September, 2000 AARP co-sponsored a panel discussion with DESA in support of the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing entitled "Population Agequake", which explored the impact of two simultaneous rapidly growing population group- youth and older persons.
In support of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, AARP has widely distributed information to its global database through its website and newsletters. In addition AARP contributed to the regional implementation of this UN Plan of Action by participation in the ECE Regional Meeting on Ageing and the ECLAC sponsored regional meeting for NGOs.
In several capacities, AARP has contributed to the preparation of the annual UN International Day of Older Persons as a speaker, organizer, and as a host. The International Day of Older Persons is an event co-sponsored by the UN NGO Committee on Ageing and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

2. Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre
Special Consultative Status Granted in 1987

The Mediterranean Women's Studies Center, KEGME, founded in October 1982 and is a non-governmental organization, based in Athens, Greece. KEGME is a Board Member of the European Network of Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Women's Studies (ENWS) under the auspices of the Council of Europe, a member of the Greek National Platform of NGOs for Development in the EU, and a member of the Mediterranean Women's Forum under the auspices of UNESCO.
AIMS: To study, analyze and improve the position of women in the family and in economic, social and public life; To increase awareness and stimulate action that will promote equality between women and men in all areas of life; To sensitize women about ecological problems and mobilize them to protect the environment and save the Mediterranean basin from pollution; To assist, women in preserving their cultural heritage and their women's values; To empower women through education in order to exercise their rights in all areas of life; To develop methods and take initiatives in conflict resolution and in the promotion of peace in the Mediterranean; To initiate activities for the promotion of democracy and human rights; and To support national, regional and international campaigns and programs about issues of major concern such as AIDS, drugs, alcoholism, violence, racism, xenophobia, youth criminality etc.
To achieve its objectives KEGME has developed various areas of responsibilities including: Feminist and action oriented research; Gender Studies Program; Organization of Seminars, Symposia; Workshops, Conferences, and Meetings on a wide number of issues related mainly

to women and youth; Program of feminist alternatives for the promotion of peace and security; Activities relating to the protection of the environment; Development projects for women in developing countries; Training projects for the promotion of human rights with emphasis on women's rights; and a Documentation and Information Unit.
KEGME'S projects and activities for the period 1999-2002 have been funded by the European Union, UNESCO, UNFPA, the Council of Europe, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment and Development, the Greek General Secretariat for Equality, Greek Banks and various European and Greek private enterprises and individuals.

ACTIVITIES

In June 1999, KEGME organized a Workshop under the title 'Women Voter's Priorities and Proposals ' in collaboration with the European Women's Lobby and the Greek General Secretariat for Equality, aiming in promoting women's equal opportunities in political life in the coming elections for Euro-Parliament.

In 1999 - 2000 KEGME implemented two major projects:

a) Development project 'Natural Resources Management by Women in Uganda' which was managed by rural women and aimed to create tree/crop nurseries and small scale productive units in six local Districts.

b) 'Making Young Voices Heard: Protecting and empowering girls victim of violence and sexual abuse'. The Project aimed to promote the rights of the girl child; Empower girls and victims of violence and sexual abuse; and Develop tools and measures for the early recognition of abuse.

In 2000-2001 KEGME implemented a 2-year major project 'Women's Dialogue for the Promotion of Stability' Human Rights and Sustainable Peace in South-East Europe' within the Royaumont Initiative of the EU. The projects' activities included a) sensitization campaigns, b) a Training Seminar on ' Gender Integration into Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Peace building' , c) one Peace Village that brought together 32 participants from all Balkan countries in an open dialogue to 'Build Bridges' of trust, understanding and confidence among women of different cultures, social, ethnic and religious backgrounds and d) a Conference on ' Women Networking for Peace and Democracy' The main outcome of the project was the establishment of the 'Balkan Women's Network for Democratization and Conflict Prevention'.

In December 2001, as a follow-up, KEGME organized a Workshop, sponsored by UNESCO, during which the Network members drew up a 5-year Plan for Action focusing on human rights, democracy, gender equality and peace- building.

In 2002, the main KEGME activity was the preparation, organization and implementation of an International Capacity Building Seminar for women from conflict and post- conflict countries. The project was financed by UNFPA and carried out in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. The overall goal was to empower women, and enable them to play a key role in community rebuilding and development. Thirty three women from Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Liberia, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), Pakistan, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Tagikistan, and Sierra Leone participated in this Workshop and were provided with new skills and tools of communication, problem-solving and leadership. The outcome of the Project was a Training Module and Resource Kit which can be used for further training by the participants.

UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES:

1999

- Attended conferences such as 'The Mediterranean Universal Rights and Diverse Cultures' for the UN Declaration of Human Rights (February 25th-26th) where KEGME presented a paper on 'The role of NGOs in the Promotion of Women's Human Rights'.
- October-November: KEGME representatives participated in the 30th UNESCO General Conference entitled, 'Towards a Communication and Information Society for all', Paris, France.

2000

- April 20th, 1999: representatives of KEGME participated in the UN Congress on "The Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders', Vienna Austria.
- April 24th-May 5th: KEGME representatives attended the 58th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York.
- June 5-9, 1999: KEGME representatives attended the UN General Assembly 'Beijing+5' in New York, and organized a workshop for young women.
- September 6-7, 1999: KEGME representatives attended the Millennium Summit 'The role of the UN in the 21" Century', New York

2001

- April 2001: attended the Commission for Sustainable Development, New York.
- October 2001: participated in the International Conference 'Women's Contribution in Conflict Prevention and Transformation ', organized by the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France.
- November 2001: participated at the Expert's Meeting organized by UNFPA and presented a Paper on 'The role of civil society and NGOs in Rebuilding Conflict- Torn societies?' Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

2002

- August 2002, KEGME participated in the 'Summit on Sustainable Development', Johannesburg, South Africa.

3. Women's World Summit Foundation
Special Consultative Status granted in 1995

The Women's World Summit Foundation was founded on 8 March 1991 in response to the first UN Children's Summit with the purpose of mobilizing women and women's organizations to hold world leaders accountable to their promises made to children and women. Since then, WWSF has developed a women's and children's section with three programs in each section. As a Swiss Foundation, headquartered in Geneva, and as an international, non-profit, non confessional, humanitarian NGO (with UN consultative status ECOSOC and UNFPA), WWSF is known for its annual empowerment programs for rural women, children and NGOs. Its aim: to help implement women's and children's rights and promised UN development goals.

WWSF is a network of over 11'000 contacts (mostly women's and children's NGOs, Human Rights organizations and grassroots development groups) that receive and request our annual campaign materials to mark the two world days it created as well as nomination guidelines to

nominate candidates for the annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life which it convenes since 1994. Our network is growing steadily and so does the budget. Three people work at the Geneva office and one person in Austria who leads the German section. WWSF received UNFPA and DPI consultative status in 1999.
WWSF participates regularly in UN conferences and meetings and has accredited members in New York, Vienna and Geneva. WWSF President and/or Executive Director attended CSW 43rd, 44th, 45th and 46th sessions in New York; Prepcoms for Durban and Johannesburg, UNGASS on Children Summit (2002); WWSF President attended the Durban World Conference on Racism 2001; the World Summit for Social Development, Johannesburg 2002; WWSF Executive Director attended the 5-year Beijing Review conference and 5-year Copenhagen review conference 2000;W'IZISF helps elaborate and signs collective NGO statements on various issues related to women's and children's rights prepared by NGO members of the Geneva CSW. WWSF is member of the UN/NGO Committee on the Status of Women and actively participates in 8 working groups (e.g. Human Rights, nutrition, peace, the girl child, ECE and employment, sexual exploitation of children, violence against children, refugee women, and as of 2003 the Congo/ NGO Spiritual committee. WWSF participates in elaborating statements at the UN Commission on Human Rights on related subjects to women's and children's rights. WWSF is member of CONGO (Conference of NGOs), CRIN, ISPCAN, CIVICUS and the NGO committee on UNICEF.
WWSF cooperates with WFP, FAD, UNESCO, FAO, UNFPA, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNHCR, UN NGLS, and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Other relevant activities: i) To help implement the Beijing empowerment goals for women, WWSF looks for innovative and creative women and women's organizations who improve the quality of life in rural communities, and awards annually to 30 or more Laureates with its annual PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE (US$500 per laureate) (convened since 1995), publishing their valuable contributions to development, household food security and peace. 247 prizes have so far been awarded.
Another empowerment program is its WORLD RURAL WOMEN'S DAY campaign on 15 October (since 1997) to sensitize governments, the media and the public at large on rural women's rights and needs and what society owes them. This is a follow-up project to the Fourth International Conference on Women - Beijing 1995. WWSF publishes every year an 'OPEN LETTER TO RURAL WOMEN OF THE WORLD' focusing on a Human Rights issue.

To help implement the Rights of the Child and the 1996 Stockholm Congress on commercial sexual exploitation of children, WWSF launched the WORLD FUND FOR THE DIGNITY OF CHILDREN and sponsored with membership donations 14 organizations working to rehabilitate sexually abused children. The Fund has now been transformed into a PRIZE FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE ACTIVITIES organized by NGO coalition members that mark the World Day of the same name.
WWSF launched in 2000 the WORLD DAY FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE - 19 November - in synergy with the Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (20 November) and coordinates an international NGO coalition of over 500 NGOs that work

the World Day with pertinent activities and events every year. A full report of activities is available on WWSF web site www.woman.ch (children's section).
WWSF is also giving workshops on how to build national NGO coalitions to mark the World Day and lobbies governments to do more for the implementation of Child Rights and for prevention of child abuse which includes physicai, sexual and emotional abuse, child neglect and exploitation which constitutes a form of violence.

WWSF organizes an annual Round Table on Progress in prevention of child abuse and press conference to mark the World Day in Geneva, invites relevant organizations (including UNHCR) to present to the public prevention programs and progress. Last year's report reveals that prevention activities as they exist today are insufficient and new innovative approaches for more effective prevention are called for.

WWSF launched in 2001 the Walk your Talk initiatives which were officially launched at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children (May 2002) and which have as their aim to: 1) regularly remind Heads of State and government of their new promises made to the children of the world and; 2) to award at a later stage those Heads of State and government who accomplish the most significant results in implementing "A world fit for children" declaration and Plan of Action
215 NGOs have so far endorsed the initiatives and expressed interest to participate with the postcard campaign. WWSF prepared a global postcard and poster for this 10-year campaign and is in the process of identifying national focal points as coordinators.

ii) WWSF has occasional consultations with various UN officials, e.g. Geneva FA0 Director who was keynote speaker on 15 October 2001, High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson who spoke at the Prize for rural women award ceremonies held at the UN in Geneva in 2000; and UNHCR Senior Program Officer for Refugee Children, Christiane Linner who presented prevention programs in refugee camps.

iii) In 2001, the UN Library in Geneva organized an exhibition of 8 Laureates who received our Prize for women's creativity in rural life and presented their work for 4 months. Geneva UN Director General, Mr. V. Petrovsky, opened the exposition.

iv) WWSF receives regular financial contributions from WFP, IFAD, UNHCR, the World Bank, and received a donation from UNIFEM and UNFPA in the past.